

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01
A-01 MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
/079 W
-----022003Z 038154 /41

R 011645Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3182
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 3 CURACAO 0200/1

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, NA
SUBJECT: ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

REF: STATE 038356, STATE 045461, STATE 059008, STATE 038338

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTELS, THE FOLLOWING PARM IS SUBMITTED:

PART I - POLICY ASSESSMENTS

A. U.S. INTERESTS

1. TO MAINTAIN EXISTING ENERGY SOURCES AS A CONTRIBUTOR TO U.S. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.
2. POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE CARIBBEAN.

B. OVERVIEW

IN MY VIEW, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES SHOULD REMAIN BASICALLY UNCHANGED. WE SHOULD MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE IN REGARD TO ANTILLEAN AFFAIRS AND ANTILLEAN/DUTCH RELATIONSHIPS, INSISTING THAT ANTILLEAN DEFENSE AND ANTILLEAN WELFARE ARE, AND MUST REMAIN, A DUTCH RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER, USG SHOULD, IN APPROPRIATE WAYS, BE SUPPORTIVE OF DUTCH AND ANTILLEAN LONG TERM

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PLANS FOR INDEPENDENCE. USG SHOULD AVOID ANY INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT ISSUE OF UNILATERALLY PROCLAIMED ARUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO USG ARE: ACCESS TO CRUDE AND REFINED OIL PRODUCTS; NA POLITICAL STABILITY; CONTINUED AVAILABILITY TO U.S. AIR

FORCE AND NAVY OF THE NA'S SEVERAL EXCELLENT AIRPORT AND SEAPORT FACILITIES AT CURACAO, ARUBA AND ST. MAARTEN. TO THIS LIST SHOULD ALSO BE ADDED CONTINUED GNA COOPERATION TO INTERDICT ILLICIT NARCOTIC SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S.

THE ARUBAN ISSUE. ALTHOUGH USG DESIRES A POLITICALLY STABLE AND UNITED NETHERLANDS ANTILLES--BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER ANY EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE--OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS OBJECTIVE MUST NOT BE SO FORCEFUL AS TO PRECLUDE FUTURE DEALINGS WITH AN AUTONOMOUS OR INDEPENDENT ARUBA, CONSIDERED AT PRESENT AS AN UNLIKELY OCCURRENCE. AN INDEPENDENT ARUBA WOULD DOUBTLESS SEEK U.S. RECOGNITION AND AID, AND COULD BE EXPECTED NOT TO INTERFERE WITH U.S. ACCESS TO ITS REFINED OIL PRODUCTION OR TO THE CRUDE OIL THAT IT STORES AND TRANSSHIPS. HENCE, OBVIOUS AND HEAVY-HANDED U.S. OPPOSITION TO ARUBAN INDEPENDENCE EFFORTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

C. OBJECTIVES

1. CONTINUED U.S. ACCESS TO THE NA REFINERIES AND TO THE CRUDE OIL SHIPPED VIA THE NA;
2. CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY ACCESS TO THE STRATEGICALLY WELL LOCATED HARBORS AND AIRPORTS OF THE NA--PARTICULARLY CURACAO AND ARUBA;
3. CONTINUED NA PROSPERITY AND POLITICAL STABILITY, AS A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE CARIBBEAN.

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D. COURSES OF ACTION

1. FAVORABLE AND HELPFUL ATTITUDE TOWARD GON EFFORTS TO KEEP THE NA ISLANDS TOGETHER;
2. RECOMMEND AGAINST U.S. LEGISLATION DEEMED AS WORKING TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF NA BY PLACING NA REFINERIES IN A COMPETITIVELY DISADVANTAGED ECONOMIC POSITION;
3. CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PROFILE IN OUR DEALINGS WITH NA.

E. ISSUES

1. THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING US/NA ISSUES REQUIRING EARLY WASHINGTON DECISION AS DEFINED BY STATE 038356.

PART II - RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

A. STATE

CONGEN CURACAO FUNCTIONS WITH A STAFF ALREADY CUT

TO THE BAREST MINIMUM. THE SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER SLOT, WHICH ALSO FULFILLS THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FUNCTION, HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE JUNE 1976, AND MAY BE ELIMINATED. THE CONSUL GENERAL, BESIDES

ADMINISTERING THE POST, ALSO OVERSEES THE POST'S MAJOR POLITICAL REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES. THE CONSULAR OFFICER DEVOTES FULL TIME TO CONSULAR WORK, AND THE ECONOMIC COMMERCIAL OFFICER, THOUGH PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POST'S E/C WORK, ALSO HANDLES CONSULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS. THE JUNIOR CONSULAR OFFICER SPENDS THE BULK OF HIS TIME ON ADMINISTRATION, BUT HE TOO HAS SOME CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES AND SERVES AS POST INFORMATION OFFICER.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01
A-01 MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
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A SERIOUS STAFFING PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT THERE ARE JUST 4 OFFICERS (INCLUDING THE PO) TO COVER SIX ISLANDS SOME 500 MILES APART, THAT ARE FAVORED BY THOUSANDS OF U.S. TOURISTS ANNUALLY, AND THIS PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY DIFFICULT AIR SCHEDULES, AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF MONTHLY CONSULAR VISITS TO PRISONERS ON THREE OF THE ISLANDS. ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS, BECAUSE OF TRANSFERS, CONSULTATIONS AND SHIP VISITS, ONLY ONE OFFICER HAS BEEN AVAILABLE FOR DUTY AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL. YET THE POST REPORTS DIREC TO WASHINGTON AND, BECAUSE OF INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN HOLLAND AND CURACAO, EXERCISES SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS OF AN EMBASSY.

VARIOUS REASSIGNMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITIES ARE POSSIBLE,
DEPENDING UPON THE RESPECTIVE SPECIALITIES AND INTERESTS
OF THE TWO SENIOR OFFICERS.

FILLING OF THE SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE
VACANCY IN THE STAFF OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL WILL
CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF U.S. OBJECTIVES IN
THE NA. TRAVEL COSTS WHICH HAVE RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY
IN THE PAST YEAR FOR REASONS ALLUDED TO, ARE EXPECTED

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TO REMAIN AT A HIGH LEVEL INTO THE INDEFINITE FUTURE.

B. OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE LEVELS

DOD. ONE ENLISTED MAN ASSIGNED TO ASSIST IN HANDLING
OF DOD PURCHASED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND THEIR SHIPMENT
TO DESTINATION. THIS MAN IS REGULARLY ASSISTED BY
ADDITIONAL DOD PERSONNEL ON TDY ASSIGNMENTS TO CURACAO
AS REQUIRED (ABOUT ONCE PER MONTH); ANOTHER DOD
REPRESENTATIVE IS EXPECTED TO BE ASSIGNED TO CURACAO
ON A PERMANENT BASIS BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT
FISCAL YEAR.

AGRICULTURE. ONE REPRESENTATIVE IN CURACAO AT THE
REQUEST OF GNA TO ASSIST IN CONTROL OF SCREW WORM
INFECTION.

DEA. TWO OR THREE DEA REPS BASED IN CARACAS CARRY
OUT TDY ASSIGNMENTS IN CURACAO AND ARUBA ON AN AVERAGE
OF ONCE PER MONTH.

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED BY THE USG AGENCIES
INVOLVED; HOWEVER, SOME CONGEN ASSISTANCE IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA--CLEARANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND
VEHICLES, ARRANGEMENTS FOR RENTAL OF HOUSING AND
CLEARANCE OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, POUCH AND CABLE
FACILITIES--IS REQUIRED.

PART III - STATE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. REPROGRAMMING--NOT DEEMED FEASIBLE IN VIEW OF SMALL
SIZE OF POST.

B. ALTHOUGH NO ADDITIONAL STAFFING REQUIRED AT THIS
TIME, FILLING OF PRESENTLY VACANT SUPPORT COMMUNICA-
TIONS OFFICER VACANCY WOULD, AS INDICATED PART II A

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(ABOVE), CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF POST'S OBJECTIVES. INCREASED FUNDING--PARTICULARLY FOR TRAVEL NEEDS--WILL BE REQUESTED PER PART II, SECTION A. AS THE NA MOVES CLOSER TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, IT WILL BECOME ESSENTIAL THAT THE LIMITED CONSULATE GENERAL STAFF BE AS MOBILE AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRENDS OF ALL THE ISLANDS AND NOT JUST OF CURACAO.

C. LOWER PRIORITY POSITIONS--NO SUBMISSION REQUIRED.

MISSION STAFFING CHART

AGENCY/ FUNCTION	AMER. OFF.	AMER. STAFF	FSL PROF.	FSL STAFF
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STATE

EXECUTIVE	1A	1
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POLITICAL

ECON/COM L	1	1
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ADMIN. (OF WHICH)	1B	5
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COMMUNICATION	1C	
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REGIONAL

OFFICES

CONSULAR	1	3
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OTHER AGENCIES

USIS

AGRIC	1	
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TREAS

JUST

DOD	1	
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AID

OTHER

(SPECIFY)

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- A. ALSO FUNCTIONS AS POLITICAL OFFICER
- B. ASSIGNED AS CONSULAR OFFICER BUT PRIMARILY DOES ADMIN DUTIES
- C. VACANT SINCE JUNE 1976

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01
A-01 MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
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FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3184
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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CORRECTED COPY FOR DELETING ALL FIGURES
IN COLUMN UNDER HEADING FSL PROF

PROJECTED 79

AGENCY/	AMER.	AMER.	FSL	FSL
FUNCTION	OFF.	STAFF	PROF.	STAFF

STATE

EXECUTIVE	1	1
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POLITICAL

ECON/COM'L	1	1
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ADMIN. (OF WHICH)		5
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COMMUNICATION	1A	
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SECURITY

REGIONAL

OFFICES

CONSULAR	2B	3
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A. ALSO FUNCTIONS AS ADMIN OFFICER (CURRENTLY VACANT)

B. JUNIOR CONSULAR OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BASIC POL

REPORTING PLUS USIS ACTIVITIES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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